

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway, near Broome street.—SOLAR SHINGLE—LIVE INDIAN.

LUCY RUSHTON'S NEW YORK THEATRE, Nos. 728 and 730 Broadway.—THE BLACK DOMINO—BETWEEN YOU AND ME AND THE FORT.

WOOD'S THEATRE, Broadway, opposite the St. Nicholas Hotel.—THE DEBATE—GLANCE AT NEW YORK—LIVE TIGER.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTRELS, 355 Broadway, opposite Metropolitan Hotel.—ETHIOPIAN SINGING, DANCING, &c.—THE FLYING TIGER.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—SINGING, DANCING, BURLESQUES, &c.—THE MOUNTAIN DEVIL.

GEORGE CHRISTY'S MINSTRELS—THE OLD SCHOOL OF MINSTRELS, BROADWAY, near the Fifth Avenue Opera House, Nos. 244 and 246 West Twenty-fourth st.

BRYANT'S MINSTRELS, Mechanics' Hall, 472 Broadway.—THE NEW YORK SINGERS—NIGRO COMIC—BROADWAY, near the Fifth Avenue Opera House.

HOOVER'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—ETHIOPIAN MINSTRELS—SINGING, DANCING, &c.—PANTOMIME.

NEW YORK MUSEUM OF ANATOMY, 618 Broadway.—Open from 10 A. M. till 10 P. M.

DODWORTH HALL, 806 Broadway.—GRAND CONCERT BY THE CONTINENTAL GLEE CLUB.

CLINTON HALL, Astor Place.—MISS MIRA GRAY'S BALLAD CONCERT.

New York, Monday, February 5, 1866.

THE NEWS.

EUROPE.

A mass of important and interesting information is contained in the HERALD despatches and extracts from our foreign files by the steamship Africa published in our columns to-day.

The state of anxiety in which all Paris, and consequently all France, awaited at the date of our latest accounts, the anticipated arrival of Napoleon on the Mexican question, at the opening of the Chambers, on the 22d ult., is well described in our correspondence from the French capital. The Emperor was himself desirous of ignoring the matter entirely in his speech, but, in deference to the unanimous advice of his Cabinet, he consented to touch upon it, and the supposition was that he would promise a withdrawal of his troops from Mexico at the earliest practicable period—within a year at least.

Our correspondent also gives an account of the grand ball at the Tuileries, with a list of the Americans present and interesting pictures of several of the leading European notabilities who mingled in the throng. Among our countrymen the lion and the one receiving most attention from their Majesties was General Schofield.

To the General the Emperor expressed his pleasure at the meeting and told with interest he had followed the march of Sherman, and to Minister Riegler he passed a very neat compliment on the beauty of American ladies. By the next arrival from Europe we shall no doubt learn precisely what Napoleon did say to his legislators about Mexico.

The particulars of the recent sudden and unexpected withdrawal from its Mediterranean rendezvous of Admiral Goldsborough's American squadron, which has caused a considerable sensation among European politicians, are given in our Florence correspondence. This movement, taking place in midwinter, when every one supposed the fleet was snugly laid up in quarters till spring, has naturally given rise to much speculation as to the cause, the leading idea in the diplomatic circles of the Italian capital being that the step has been taken owing to the supposed delicate relations at present existing between the United States and France, and in order to prevent our ships from being shut up in the Mediterranean by French iron-clads in case hostilities should actually break out between the two countries. All that the *guidance* positively know, however, is that the Admiral acts in obedience to orders from Washington, and that his ships will spend the remainder of the winter in the Tagus, at or near Lisbon. Our correspondent states that there is at present a great rush through Florence of American tourists, mostly on their way to Rome, where there is an immense number of our countrymen this winter, and where American society is just now the gayest of the gay, and leading the world of fashion to such an extent that the Italians are beginning to fear our Petrarchan prince, the *Grand Duke* of Florence, will have to take possession of the ancient capital of the world.

Another meeting of the English holders of rebel bonds was held in London on the 15th ult., when the resolutions submitted at a previous meeting were adopted. According to a statement made by one of the sufferers, the Messrs. Erlanger, the Paris bankers who engineered the loan in question, have netted the last little sum of two and a half millions of dollars out of the affair, while the unsophisticated cats who pulled the monkey's roasted chestnuts out of the fire, have only their burnt purses to show for their part in the transaction.

MEXICO.

The correspondence already alluded to in our columns, between General Weyler and Mejs, regarding the Bagdad rail, is given in our Brownsville letter published this morning. General Weyler informs the imperial commander that he sent troops to the town, after its capture, solely in the interest of humanity and to prevent further scenes of outrage and disorder, and that if the investigation which he has ordered shall show that any of his men were engaged in the foray they shall be punished. It is very apparent that if the American troops had not been despatched for the protection of the inhabitants of Bagdad the place would have been completely sacked, if not destroyed. The Mexican chief Cortina, on learning of its capture, immediately proceeded thither with a party of his men for the purpose of pillaging, but was prevented executing his design by the American officer in command. To General Weyler's letter Mejs replied very briefly, merely stating that he had laid a full account of the matter before his government. The commander of the French Gulf fleet also submitted his protest against the occupation of Bagdad by Americans. General Escobedo, having for a considerable while held the chief command of the Mexican republicans on the Rio Grande without being able to effect the desired unity of action among his several subordinate chiefs or to achieve any great success, has left the frontier for the interior, and the improbable rumor that he has joined the imperialists has been set at rest.

THE SPANISH-CHILEAN WAR.

Diplomatic correspondence of a somewhat important character, as affecting the relations of belligerents at sea, has passed between the British Ambassador at Madrid and the Spanish government. The British Minister pronounced, on the part of his government, against the Spanish order that all the crews of Chilean privateers sent of Chilean birth should be treated as pirates, which they considered contrary to international law. M. de Castro, the Spanish Minister, nearly replied that British ideas of international law were not always in accordance with the views of the most distinguished writers on the subject. M. de Castro further upholds the policy pursued by Admiral Pardo, and reminds Sir John Clarendon that "England herself declared, as far back as 1794, by

her treaty with the United States, that the subjects of either nation exercising privateering against either of them were pirates."

In consideration of the fact, announced in our last South American news, that Peru has formed an alliance with Chile against the Spaniards, the sketch which we give from a Valparaiso paper of General Prado, the young Peruvian Dictator, is just now rendered additionally interesting. He is lauded as being equally wise and capable in civil affairs, and brave and skillful in war, and his brilliant future is prophesied for his country under his administration by his sanguine eulogist.

THE CITY.

Yesterday formed no exception to the general rule which during a considerable portion of the present winter has prescribed for us in this region a dose of extra cold weather on Sundays. The mercury was well down in the twenties through the day, and at twelve o'clock at night had fallen to eighteen degrees above zero.

The skating in the Park yesterday was excellent, and the continued frost promises to make this a gala week.

A grand carnival takes place at Sylvan Lake to-day, while a skating match comes off at Union pond. A shadow dance at the former place on Wednesday evening, and two matinees at the Fifth avenue pond, complete the week's programme so far as yet announced.

The present condition of the house market, and the great increase in rentals demanded for business places and offices in New York, have attracted the attention of the public, and there is considerable excitement upon the subject in the minds of those who have to pay rents as well as those who intend purchasing real property.

An article giving some interesting figures bearing upon the matter appears in this morning's HERALD.

A fire which broke out between twelve and one o'clock yesterday morning in No. 206 Chatham street, and extended to Nos. 204 and 208, caused damage to the three buildings and stocks of goods therein estimated at about six thousand dollars, the principal part of which is covered by insurance.

An explosion occurred about seven o'clock last evening, in one of the stills of the new oil refinery, on the corner of South Eighth and Provost streets, Jersey City, and the building was soon after enveloped in flames. Its most valuable stores were saved, and the total loss is estimated at only about five thousand dollars. The flames which followed the explosion lighted up the sky over this city, and for a considerable distance around, most brilliantly.

The steamer Kill Von Kull sank at the foot of Fortieth street, North river, yesterday afternoon, and about one hundred cattle on board of her were drowned.

A sermon was delivered by Archbishop McCloskey last night at St. Teresa's church, corner of Rutgers and Henry streets, the subject being taken from the Gospel of the day. The church was crowded, and a large sum was realized from the proceeds of the tickets sold at the door. The object was to assist the church in liquidating the debts entailed on it.

A lecture on the Greek Church was delivered last evening to a crowded audience, in St. Joseph's Catholic church by the Rev. Father Howe.

The Arena Society held their fifth and last soiree of the carnival season last night at the Germania Assembly Rooms, in the Bowery, which were crowded on the occasion by a merry throng of both sexes.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The conversation which took place between Secretary Seward and President Davis, of St. Domingo, during the recent visit of the former to that republic, and some portions of which have already been furnished our readers by our West India correspondents, appears at length in our columns to-day. "Bass gave an account of the manner in which he had been called to the Presidency, and said that, his country being now free from the Spanish invaders, it had far promise of continued independence and prosperity, but that in order to insure the stability of its government the recognition of the United States was indispensable. Mr. Seward explained that neither the republic of Hayti, which had existed for nearly fifty years, nor that of St. Domingo, which was established as long ago as 1824, had received any official notice from our government till after the commencement of the rebellion here, because up to that time the slavery interest dictated our governmental policy; but he gave President Bass to understand that whenever a Dominican minister should be sent to Washington he would be received and placed on the same footing as other foreign representatives. As our readers have already been informed, President Johnson, since Mr. Seward's return to Washington, has nominated to the Senate a minister to the republic of St. Domingo.

A rumor has gained circulation in Washington that if the Freedmen's Bureau bill shall pass in the House of Representatives in the same shape that it was received from the Senate the President will issue a proclamation declaring the privileges of the writ of *habeas corpus* restored in all the border States.

Generals Grant and Sherman yesterday paid a visit to Admiral Porter at Annapolis, Md., and were entertained by a review of the midshipmen at the Naval Academy.

A movement is projected for holding in Washington in a few days a meeting of prominent politicians to organize a national party, in opposition to the radicals, to be composed of Union democrats and conservative republicans.

The details of the loss of the Australian steamship London furnish a tale of horror almost unsurpassed, relieved by acts of heroism worthy of being borne in perpetual remembrance. A perusal of the extracts which we publish elsewhere, will give the reader some idea of how terrible a thing a shipwreck is.

The bonds of the O'Mahony branch of Fenians are said to be still selling freely among those who are supposed to know something of what is going on, and there appears to be general confidence and hope among the whole fraternity.

The Valley Worsted Mill, at Providence, R. I., was almost totally destroyed by fire on last Friday night, involving a loss of between two and three hundred thousand dollars. Many of the operatives in the mill were severely injured by jumping from the windows, and it was rumored that some of them were burned to death.

A fire in Oswego, N. Y., yesterday morning, destroyed about forty thousand dollars worth of property.

The Union City Flour Mills, at Waterloo, Indiana, valued at twenty thousand dollars, were destroyed by fire yesterday.

The boilers of the steamer W. R. Carter exploded on Friday last, at Island No. 26, on the Mississippi river, causing the death of several persons, and rendering the boat and her cargo a total loss. The vessel alone was valued at one hundred thousand dollars.

The boiler of the towboat Baltic, at New Orleans, exploded at her wharf on Saturday morning, and immediately after sank. Four or five persons were killed.

A prize fight for two thousand dollars took place on the 16th of January, a few miles from London, England, between two pugilists named Rooke and Ryall, which lasted two hours and fifty-six minutes; but only thirteen rounds were fought during that time, owing to the fall of a drenching rain and the muddy state of the ground. The fight was finally adjourned to the 22d of January. The men showed little punishment. A detailed account will be found in this morning's HERALD.

A "friendly meeting" for the pugilistic championship of Montana took place in that territory on New Year's Day, between Patsy Marley, of New York, and Con Orem, the Colorado champion. Ninety-nine rounds were fought, occupying two hours. Orem was the victor. This was the third meeting between these men.

PRECAUTIONARY SANITARY MEASURES.—The Board of Health of Brooklyn, assisted by a large committee of physicians and citizens, are about taking some excellent precautionary measures against the cholera, should we have the misfortune to be visited by that pestilence in the coming summer. They propose to make a thorough examination of every house, street, lane and alley in the city, with a view to removing everything that is calculated to impair the public health, before the warm days of spring are upon us. Some forty eminent physicians have volunteered their services in this good work. This is an important sanitary movement, which might be adopted in the metropolis with great advantage to the public health. Brooklyn has, perhaps, less evils to remedy in the way of dirty streets and alleys than New York; and if such measures be deemed advisable in that city, how much more necessary are they here! Many weeks will not elapse before the winter will begin to break up, and all the disease-breeding material in our narrow streets will be released from its present icy bondage. We should therefore follow the example of the Brooklyn authorities and "take time by the forelock."

The Troubles of England, France and Spain.—Retribution Comes at Last.

France, England and Spain conspired against the United States when this country was in the throes of civil war. Our national existence as one Power was seriously imperilled, republican institutions were undergoing the severest trial, and that grand destiny which we believed Providence had promised to us seemed as if it were about to be cut short. In this, the darkest hour of our history, the three Powers named combined to give us an unfriendly kick in the dark, with a view of completing our ruin and cutting short our glorious career. The successful example of republican institutions on this continent was a standing reproach to monarchy, aristocracy, oligarchy and class government in the Old World. The oppressed people there began to cast their eyes across the Atlantic and compare this free government and great and happy land with their own countries. The comparison could have no other effect than to make them dissatisfied and to long for a change in their own institutions and condition. Their rulers had the sagacity to see this, and feared the consequences to themselves. These monarchs and privileged classes, doubtless, would have taken steps before to have clipped the wings of the soaring eagle of republican America had they dared to do so, or would have found a pretext, but they were not able. When, however, we were plunged in civil war, they believed their opportunity had come, and they were not slow to take advantage of it. We do not know yet, and may never know, what were the terms of this secret alliance or understanding among the European Powers, or how many of them entered into it. Some, it is probable, as Russia and some of the smaller States, who had nothing to fear from the growth of the republic and who had always been friendly to us, were not parties to the hostile combination. But we know, from the acts of England, France and Spain, that they proceeded in accord with each other in the general policy laid down or understood. England hastily recognized the rebels as belligerents, giving an example for other Powers to follow, and cheerfully consented to the spoliation and destruction of our sister American republics, thus aiming a blow at republican government over the entire continent. France, or rather the Emperor Napoleon—for we make a distinction between him and the French people—undertook to blot out the republic of Mexico and to erect a monarchy on its ruins. Spain combined with him at first in this great national outrage, and finally took upon herself a separate rôle in attacking the other republics of America. These were the parts which each of the three Powers to this most unwholly alliance, conspiracy or combination took, and in which two at least have not yet ceased acting. True, they disagreed about the spoils soon after they commenced to carry out the programme, one trying to overreach the other, but each continued to be moved by the same spirit of hostility to the United States and to republican institutions on the American continent.

Now they are suffering the fate of all who follow blind ambition and ignore the principles of right and justice. Influenced by their own passions and selfish policy, regardless of the well-being of the masses of mankind, these monarchs and aristocratic rulers, listened to false prophets and believed a lie. They were told that the great republic was broken up, never to be restored, and they believed it. But it was not written so in the book of fate, which was closed to their eyes. The republic is preserved, and is stronger and mightier than ever. The ripple which a few agitating fanatics make in our domestic political affairs will be calmed down soon, and we shall become more firmly united than heretofore. Our destiny, so far from being circumscribed or arrested by the events of the last few years, is enlarged. We have loomed up to be the first Power of the world. On the other hand, those who combined against us are full of trouble. The thorn is in their side. Retribution has followed them.

England is sorely disturbed both in the United Kingdom and in her colonies by Fenianism. A rebel apparition haunts her slumbers now. A widespread organization which was sneered at a few months ago turns out not to be so contemptible, and no one can tell how serious it may become. There are, too, other latent causes of trouble both in Canada and Australia. The financial condition of the kingdom also is evidently in a very dangerous condition. Then there is the difficulty with this country about the Anglo-rebel claims hanging over her.

With regard to France, the very measures the Emperor Napoleon took to check the United States and to increase his own power in America have proved his greatest trouble. The fruit has turned to ashes in his mouth. He has become aware that he cannot remain in Mexico, and that his experiment of erecting an empire and making an emperor is a failure. He does not know how to get out of the dilemma without disgrace. The loss of his prestige for sagacity and statesmanship might materially weaken his hold upon the French people and his power in Europe, to say nothing of the cost of his effort to manufacture imperialism. All this may strengthen greatly the opposition, which begins to show vitality, and amid the revolutionary elements that are fermenting in Europe, might endanger his dynasty. The retributive hand of Justice is raised over his head, and makes him feel very uneasy about this Mexican business. Undoubtedly he wishes he had not touched it.

As to poor Spain, her quixotic part of the European intervention with America is proving equally disastrous. She came out of the St. Domingo affair, as well as out of the Mexican, in a humiliating manner. Her attack upon the republics of South America is involving her in the greatest difficulty. The prospect is that she will be compelled to succumb in the struggle. Under any circumstances she cannot come out with credit. At home the whole kingdom is in a ferment of revolution. The dynasty of Isabella itself hangs upon a slender thread. Thus, we see, the avenging Nemesis pursues also this other monarchial conspirator against republican liberty. The United States is not only a great republic in itself, but is the representative of republican ideas and of freedom for the people of all nations, and any assault upon our government, openly or insidiously, must recoil upon the assailants; for the people everywhere are our friends, if the crowned heads and privileged classes are not.

THE REPUBLICAN PARTY BREAKING UP.—The outrageously radical measures of Sumner and Stevens are breaking up the republican party, which could have ruled the country for the

next century had it been properly managed.

It elected Lincoln over McClellan in 1864 because all the soldiers and the friends of the soldiers gave it their votes; but now we see that all the great generals, like Grant, Sherman and Thomas, have declared against the radical policy in their reports, and that the soldiers are indignant at the efforts made for immediate, universal and unconditional negro suffrage. The result will be the organization of a new conservative party that will annihilate the republicans as they annihilated the democrats. The only military men who endorse Sumner and Stevens in their crusade against the President are Ben Butler and Carl Schurz. These are all the soldiers, if they may be called soldiers, that the republicans now retain in their party.

Internal Revenue Tax Paid by this City.

We notice by the official returns of the Internal Revenue Department that the citizens and business interests of this metropolis have paid the enormous sum of thirty-seven millions of dollars of internal revenue tax during the past year ending with the 1st of January. There was collected in this city, under this law, during the year 1864, eighteen millions. The amount received by the government for 1865 is, therefore, more than double that of the previous year. Thus this metropolis, which bore the great financial burden of the war and opened its financial vaults at every demand of the government for the sinews of war, is now, on the return of peace, foremost in meeting the nation's obligations. The entire tax collected under the Internal Revenue laws throughout the country in 1864 was, in round numbers, two hundred and eleven millions, and this city paid one-eleventh of this whole amount. The six New England States paid only five millions more than this one city. For the year 1865 the total receipts of the government from this source will foot up nearly three hundred millions, of which New York city has paid one-eighth. These figures speak for themselves. But, while every New Yorker has good reason to feel proud of this record, according to the constitution it is an injustice to the business interests of this city. That instrument specially declares that "Representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers." If the internal revenue tax for 1864 had been levied in accordance with this provision, even excluding the eleven Southern States, this city would have only been required to pay about seven millions, instead of eighteen. Applying the same rule to 1865, the amount required of this city would have been less than ten, instead of thirty-seven millions.

The enormous increase during 1865 is no doubt owing to changes in the law, and its more efficient administration. But there is great room for improvement in the practical application of the revenue laws. The special commission give it as their opinion that at least one-third of the tax is not collected. From facts in our possession we consider this statement below, rather than above, the mark. This is unjust to the honest tax-payer, and calls for immediate correction, if the government expect that the people will bear the burthens which our enormous debt has placed upon them. With all the increase of receipts from this city, there are millions which remain uncollected, simply from the double policy of financial officers at Washington. There is one point of recent occurrence which illustrates this fact: the Commissioner of the Internal Revenue Bureau at Washington has twice, within the last two months, issued positive orders for the collection of the tax on sales of stocks made by brokers for themselves, the same as on commission. The clear interpretation of the law requires this, and some of the brokers have paid it without grumbling, but the majority have not, while some have entered the sales for their customers in their books as their own, and thus, while collecting the tax of their customers, have made no return of the amount to the tax officials. Every time that the Commissioner has issued an order for the enforcement of this provision of the law some broker with influence has visited Washington and secured an order from an official who outranks the Commissioner, countermanding that of the latter and postponing its enforcement. A great injustice has been done to the tax-paying community by this action. On no class of business will the tax be felt as little as that on the sales in Wall street. It is purely a speculative business, and the tax levied thus does not affect the mass of the people or increase the prices of the necessities of life, whereas a tax on sugar, clothing and specific articles of that kind affects every family in the land, and increases the cost of these necessities. But it is not in this sense alone that evil results will follow the conflicting policy of the government officials. Those brokers who come forward and honestly pay their full tax required by law have just cause for complaint, and it will not be long before they, too, will hold back and evade a portion of the tax. When the people once realize that Wall street speculators can go to Washington and secure an order relieving themselves of the government tax, the Treasury Department will find that the enormous revenue tax will not be paid as cheerfully as now, and instead of receiving hundreds of millions it will be found difficult to obtain hundreds of thousands.

AMERICAN SECURITIES ABROAD.—While American securities are steadily advancing in value, those of France and England are steadily decreasing. The reason of this is that those who desire to invest their money can do so to much greater advantage and with much higher interest in American than in foreign bonds. If a person in England has fifty thousand dollars in gold to invest, he can get three or four per cent interest for it in specie by depositing it with the English or French governments; but if he sends it to this country he finds it transformed into seventy thousand dollars in paper money—gold being at about forty per cent premium—and he can put this sum, at par, into bonds that pay six per cent interest in gold. Such a practical difference as this may well overcome all the arguments of the London Times, a paper which endeavors to depreciate American securities by the odors of the Rothschild clique who control it, and whose foreign investments are injured by the present advance in our bonds. Besides this, shrewd financiers, who discount the future, plainly see that the troubles of this country are over for a century to come, while France and England will soon be involved in some of those difficulties which periodically occur to every country, like fits of sickness to individuals.

The radicals in Congress are making every effort to endorse the views of the London Times and to postpone "our prosperity; but we are assured that their insane and unpatriotic projects will all fail before the calm conservatism of President Johnson and his people.

THE MEXICAN QUESTION.—The Republic the Last Chance for Maximilian.

From the copious and interesting budget of Mexican correspondence which we have perused yesterday our readers will have perceived that the empire is not peace, that Maximilian's embarrassments, military, political, ecclesiastical and financial, are too much for him, and that the idea prevails among the French in Mexico that Louis Napoleon is about to withdraw and leave his protégé to his own resources. New cabinets and new party affiliations are talked of as contemplated by Maximilian, especially a close alliance with the old Church party; but this movement will not now avail him. The old Church party, in being despoiled of their vast estates and their goods and chattels, are in the condition of the lion with his teeth and claws extracted. The holders of the spoils hold the balance of power, and they, to secure their positions, are the adherents of Maximilian, and only upon this condition. If he has signally failed to enlist the liberals on his side in adopting the Church policy of Juarez, he will more signally fail in the experiment of overthrowing the liberals by a return to the Church party.

That Louis Napoleon intends to abandon Maximilian appears to be settled by all our latest advices from Mexico, from Paris and from Washington. Before the close of this week we may perhaps have the official views and purposes of the Emperor of the French, with the report of his speech to his legislative chambers, which doubtless assembled in Paris on the 22d of January, pursuant to his call. It does not appear, however, from any fore-shadowings of this imperial speech, that Napoleon contemplates the abandonment of his empire of Mexico with the withdrawal of his troops. His idea seems to be that, unless interfered with by the United States, Maximilian is in a condition to sustain himself, and that for the sake of peace our government will practice the rule of non-intervention, until, with the removal of every vestige of the republic, we shall have no alternative left us but a recognition of the empire.

But the remonstrances of Mr. Seward cover the establishment of Maximilian as an offensive usurpation, which in no event can be recognized by our government. That in this view the administration speaks the almost unanimous public sentiment of this country cannot be questioned. Maximilian is only tolerated by the United States for the time being as an offensive interloper, to whom a reasonable margin of grace may be allowed on the condition of his peaceable departure. But neither as the protégé of Napoleon, nor as the representative of the House of Hapsburg, nor as the crowned head of an independent empire, can he establish himself in Mexico. But by adopting the republic and by securing his election, after the old Mexican fashion, as President, he may succeed not only in holding his ground without further assistance from France or Austria, but he may, perhaps, secure a recognition from the United States. His simplest plan, and safest, however, would be to sell out to President Juarez for a good round sum in cash, and retire to his comfortable retreat on the Adriatic, there to enjoy the proceeds in the philosophy of retirement, and as a public benefactor. The happy reign of Sancho Panza over his peaceful island is not reserved for Max in Mexico. With the failure of Jeff. Davis this Mexican enterprise became a failure, and as an offshoot of our late Southern rebellion it must share the same fate.

Congress, meantime, satisfied with the stand taken by the administration in behalf of the Monroe doctrine, is undisturbed by any agitation of Mexican affairs; but should the forthcoming speech of Louis Napoleon to his legislative bodies fall short of the prevailing expectations on this side the Atlantic, we may reasonably predict a movement in the House of Representatives looking to a decisive understanding between the two governments. The American Congress is waiting to hear from Louis Napoleon, and is less disturbed by party lines in reference to Mexico than upon the issues of Southern reconstruction.

GENERAL SHERMAN ON THE POSITION OF THE NEGRO SOUTH.—THE RADICALS ARE ONLY ENEMY.—The communication addressed to the War Department by General Sherman, and dated December 22, probably contains all that the General has to say at present on the state of the Southern people, and is not to be followed, as has been thought possible, by a more elaborate exposition of the great soldier's views. It sums up the whole case tersely, and contains all that a man of clear ideas need say:—"The negroes in Arkansas are all find profitable and lucrative employment, and are protected in all their rights and property by the civil authorities." Here is a great fact that gives us the position of reconstruction in that State at one view, and General Sherman states it on his own credit, like a man who knows that the country will believe what he says. So far as the negroes go, then, reconstruction is all right out there. No nigger need starve if disposed to labor, and none is deprived of justice. More than this cannot be required until the country is prepared to build every darky a house, put his name on the income list and give his wife a piano. Not only are all secure in Arkansas, but they also feel secure. "I met no one, citizen or soldier, who questioned or doubted that their freedom was as well secured in Arkansas as in Ohio." We cannot doubt, then, that the position of the negro in Arkansas is all that his real friends could desire it to be; and if it is so in Arkansas it is throughout the Southern States. Arkansas was one of the least enlightened parts of Slavedom always, and it is not possible that any other State can be behind it in progress toward reconstruction. Where, then, is the danger of the negro just now? It comes from his pretended friends. It lies wholly and solely in radical agitation and in the reaction against the nigger that that agitation will inevitably induce. The radicals in Congress are running up a terrible score that will be settled on the poor blacks for whose benefit they pretend to clamor. They are preventing peace—preventing the harmonious return of the States to their place—keeping the country in a state of anarchy and confusion, and all, as they say, for the negro, and out of their stubborn determination to have their own way.

REGULATING THE RAILROADS.—Mr. Williams, of Erie, has introduced a bill into the Assembly that looks a little as if there were some thought in Albany of making now and then a law for the good of the people. This bill is "for the better protection of life on railroads." Judging by the title only, we would suppose that the author of this bill had glimmerings as to the real functions of a State Legislature; that he did not think members were sent to Albany merely to be bought and sold, to concoct schemes for private advantage only, and that he had no other application to the public except as they plunder it. We know nothing of the above bill save its title; but we know that the presumption is always against a bill brought out at Albany. It has first to be proved and shown that it is not a job before any one can trust it. Our State legislation is, as a rule, such notorious jobbery—every bill has so many corrupt affiliations—that the public is wisely suspicious of even those whose titles promise best. But if Mr. Williams' bill is really an honest attempt to render life safer on the railroads within our State, it deserves the support and encouragement of the whole community. We hope it will go ahead all right, that it will apply to all roads equally, and that it does not cover any job. It should contain some provisions to render life tolerable, not to say safe, on our city railroads. It should, at all events, compel these city roads to adhere to their own rules, and run according to the regulations they have made for themselves. Half the discomforts of the public on the city cars, and all the accidents, are due to the violation of the rules that the companies ostentatiously print all over their cars. Nothing is more notorious than that persons are forbidden to ride on the platforms, and yet the platforms are never empty. No one is permitted to enter or leave the cars by the front platform, and all the accidents occur by attempting to enter or by leaving the cars at that point. The companies should be required to enforce their own regulations where they are good. Thus a car should only have one entrance, and the front door should be locked by the starter. Then the chains beside the driver would make the front platform an inaccessible place. Smoking on the cars, which is forbidden, but not stopped, would then be put an end to. It is true the companies would thus lose the opportunity to carry six or eight more passengers at crowded times; but perhaps then they would put on more cars. Nor should any person be permitted to stand on the rear platform, whether the car be full or empty. Ladies cannot use the cars at all on account of the crowded state of those platforms. They are also the chosen resort of pickpockets. This is so notorious that two or three men, seen crowded on these platforms when there are plenty of seats, are now always supposed to be pickpockets. It is certain that the light-fingered gentry ply their trade at that favorite point with great success. On some other points the rules of the cars are not so excellent, and these are the rules that are enforced; but against those the courts furnish a remedy. Thus the Supreme Court of Brooklyn, a few days ago, gave a just verdict of \$2,500 damages against the Brooklyn City and Newtown Railroad, on which Dennis Sheridan, a boy, was killed by having been deprived of his seat after he had paid his fare, and forced by the crowd to the front platform, from which he fell under the wheel. In some respects, therefore, the cars may be left to the courts; but there are many others in which they need legislative regulation, and it is to be hoped that some provisions in reference to them may find their way into Mr. Williams' bill.

THE RISE IN REAL ESTATE.—The immense increase in the prices of real estate and in rents in this city is a conclusive proof of the greatness and the prosperity of the metropolis. New York is the centre of the country, as Paris is of France and London of England. People rush to it from all parts of the United States to make money or to enjoy the comforts and elegances of life. If they have to pay dearly for its advantages the majority of them are perfectly willing to do so, while the others—the poorer classes—have to suffer because the means of living, with them, do not increase with the rapidity of the prosperity of the city. Just as a store on Broadway is more valuable for business purposes, and consequently commands a higher rent than a store in some unfrequented alley, so a residence in New York is worth more and costs more than a residence in any other part of the country. The increase of twenty, thirty and forty per cent now required by landlords over the rents for last year is certainly onerous; but the law of supply and demand regulates rents as it regulates the prices of sugar and breadcloth. Our hotels are more crowded when they charge five dollars a day, than they were a few years ago when they only charged two dollars. Houses are very dear, but they are also very scarce, even at the high rates, and this scarcity makes them the more costly. If one person is not willing to pay the advanced rent another person is; and although we may grumble about the exactions of landlords, they are sure to take the highest rate offered. There are many instances where fifty thousand dollars are paid for stores this year, against twenty-five thousand paid twelve months ago; and they prove that New York is the great business centre of the republic and that the tide of population is flowing here most rapidly. The only remedy for high rents is the erection of more stores and houses, and that is a work of time. Meanwhile we hope that the tax assessors will keep the run of these advanced rates and tax the landlords accordingly.